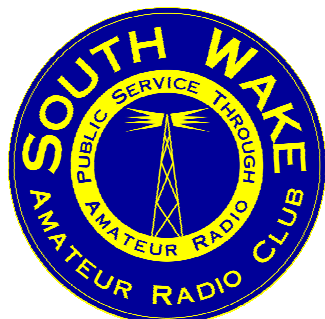




SWARCER NEWS

February 2009

SKYWARN TRAINING

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- > Net nightly at 7:30 on the 147.195
- > Tuesday night Net on 440 Linking system
- > Next meeting: **March 2, 2009 at 7PM** Fuquay Varina Presbyterian Church, 307 N Ennis Street, Fuquay-Varina
- > March Program:
- > Skywarn Training

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Our March meeting will feature a Skywarn program presented by the National Weather Service. They will give us details about the program and how we as amateur radio operators can get involved.

They will present a Severe Weather Spotter training program to help participants and responders understand the warning process, recognitions of severe storms and severe weather reporting.

The following topics will be covered...

- how and why buildings fail in high winds
- thunderstorm development and severity
- recognition of storm/cloud elements
- anticipating storm motion, intensity and severity based on cloud structure

**Southern Wake
Severe Weather 2009**

March 2, 2009

730 pm – 900 pm...National Weather Service Basic SKYWARN Training

Severe Weather Spotter Training (repeat sessions)

The National Weather Service will present a Severe Weather Spotter training program to help participants and responders understand the warning process, recognitions of severe storms and severe weather reporting.

The following topics will be covered...

- how and why buildings fail in high winds
- thunderstorm development and severity
- recognition of storm/cloud elements
- anticipating storm motion, intensity and severity based on cloud structure

There is no Cost to Attend!

Location:
Fuquay-Varina Presbyterian Church
307 N. Ennis Street
Fuquay-Varina NC

Sponsored by South Wake Amateur Radio Club

For more information contact:
jeff.orrock@ncwa.org
Jeff Orrock – (919) 515-8209 ext. 223

SOUTH WAKE ARC WEB SITE

You may have noticed that the South Wake Amateur Radio Club web site is undergoing some changes. Dale, Tommy, Steve and Ryan have been working on improvements which will be phased in within the next few months. Among those improvements will be a members only section where club business matters can be posted. There will also be

increased space for posting the many pictures of our club activities. We will also now be able to keep an archive of past news letters.

Thanks you guys for all the hard work!

SWAPFEST

A suggestion has been made that we have a very informal swap fest this fall. Anyone with suggestions as to a place or time, please contact Ryan Avery. We would like to have it in a place that is convenient not only to our members but others in the area.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING BY KI4TFO JENNIFER AVERY

February 2, 2009
South Wake ARC Minutes of Meeting

Meeting started at 7:56 after presentation by ARRL

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Last meeting our total was \$1,131.25
We wrote a check for tables for RARSfest \$51
A check for the club vanity call \$12.30
New total 1,117.95

SECRETARY:

A motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting as written was passed.

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Thomas wants to put together a list of people who would be able to help out with Meals on Wheels. This takes about an hour to do this. See Thomas, he will put you on a list.
Run for the Quay is an event on the first weekend in June.
Thomas will have some more information next meeting

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership has not changed since last month. Membership still stands at 63, 4 associate and the rest licensed hams.

REPEATER UPDATE:

Dale read an email from Danny Hampton detailing the repeater status.

NET REPORT

Mark NC4MP was not present.

WEBSITE: One of the forums on our website was hacked and there was porn on the site. Ryan NC4RA pulled the site. Tommy and Dale discussed that Danny Hampton has a buddy in Florida who has a server that we could use. At this time, he is not asking for any money. The server space is free. He just asked that we resize the pictures.

Jennifer KI4TFO reported that Ryan could not make the meeting but that he was messing around with a server which he would donate to the club.

Tim decided that a technology committee consisting of Dale, Tommy, Ryan and Steve KA0GMY should meet prior to the Board of Directors meeting on March 1st and come up with a proposal to present to the Board and then the Club.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday is Frost Fest up in Richmond, VA.
March 1st is the NC QSO party from noon until 10:00 p.m.
JARS auction February 19th

RARSfest is April 11th

NEXT MEETING:

March 2nd and we will have pizza. Please let Gino know by the Friday before who will be coming. Virginia will be here from Skywarn to get everyone Skywarn spotter trained. Bring everyone you know to this event. Talk to other clubs and invite them all. We will have the training at 7PM and then have a meeting afterward. Don't forget to mention it on the nets!

SOUTH WAKE SWAP FEST:

Tim suggested we start thinking about having a South Wake Swap Fest this Fall.

DONATIONS:

KG4RMT Selene suggested we make a donation to the Fuquay-Varina Presbyterian church for allowing us to use their facility. A motion was made, seconded and passed to give them a \$100 donation.

TECHNICAL AND SWAP NETS:

Jim K9RII and Steve KA0GMY suggested we have a technical and swap nets. Talk to Steve or email him: ka0gmy@bellsouth.net if you are interested in helping.

DANNY HAMPTON:

KA0GMY suggested that we make a donation to Danny Hampton. In his email, he said he was selling things to buy us a second antenna. It's time we make a club donation and for anyone who can, a personal donation. We will be accepting donations at the next meeting which we will make directly to Danny.

NEWSLETTER:

Jim W4VCF will be taking over the Newsletter. Send him any articles to: w4vcf@arrl.net

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING:

March 1 at 1:00pm at Golden Corral

42 members were present

North Carolina Hams Coordinate Governor's Inauguration Parade

By Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, ARRL NC PIO

On one of the last days of 2008, Kelly Andrews KD4EWG got a call from some people he knows who were working on Governor-elect Bev Perdue's inauguration in Raleigh. "Could you get some of your ham buddies to help us out with logistics?" Uh, that would be in less than two weeks, on Saturday, January 10, with the New Year holiday about to happen. Kelly wasn't able to help, but he passed them on to Tom Brown N4TAB. Tom is Wake County ARES EC (and Central Branch AEC). And he wasn't so sure. Yes, the hams could do it, even on short notice. But did they want to? Hams had been called out for Governor Mike Easley's second inauguration four years earlier, and ended up not doing much. We'll do it, Tom replied, if you give us a real job.

We got four: handle seating for the inauguration; coordinate the staging for the parade (66 units, 2200 participants); relay the actual order of parade participants to the TV network broadcasting the parade so they could set up their graphics and scripts; and coordinate the busses that were to pick up the parade participants once they finished. And we wouldn't be just shadowing and communicating for the people doing these jobs – we'd be doing them ourselves.

Time to recruit some volunteers. Tom put out the word on ARES mailing lists and Triangle area nets, and got help from Bill Cole, KG4CXY. Bill ran an independent public service group, Carolina Helping Hams (www.hampublicservice.org), and had his own list of volunteers. Between them, they filled the twenty slots they needed and had to turn a few others down.

Tom and Bill met with the Inauguration staff, but got only sketchy information about how things were planned. That's because, with little time to spare, planning hadn't progressed very far. They explained what they could to the ham volunteers on two nets held on the Raleigh 148.88 repeater, but

when the hams reported for duty early Saturday morning, they knew where to gather, what frequency to use, and not much else.

VIP seating for the inauguration was the first task. Tom dispatched Bill KG4CXY, Karl K4LNX and Charles WA3UTC to handle that. Virginia NC4VA went along to shadow the parade coordinator. They found that 700 seats had been set up, but 2000 tickets had been sent out. Seating had been divided by group, but there were no maps. Somehow they handled it.

Then Bill, Karl and Charles went to see about the parking lot where the busses would wait to pick up the parade participants as they finished. I monitored the radio traffic on that, and it was trouble! The lot they were told to use had been taken over by the Capital Police. The next lot they were pointed to was filling up with cars from arriving spectators. They closed the lot and saved what space was left, and got ready to direct parade units to their busses. Tom warned that the first parade participants would likely stall and mill around as they exited the route, causing a backup into the active parade, so Karl and Charles would have to hustle them along. And that's what they did. They kept the parade marching and extra two blocks, light up to the busses. Bill left them to their task and became the parade marshal/traffic cop at the starting line.

The rest of the hams were helping at the parade staging area, and things were no better organized there. The plan was for the police department to cordon off several blocks at the south end of downtown Raleigh where the 65 parade units would wait to be lined up. As those groups arrived, the streets were still full of traffic, and the small volunteer parking lot where the parade units checked in was filling up fast. It would never hold the whole parade.

Fortunately, Tom and Bill had identified "Plan B" – two large parking lots adjacent to the check-in

area – the day before. Those lots were privately owned, but they were still empty Saturday morning, so Tom sent Phil, AE4PC, John AI4RT and Dick KM4SX over to direct parade traffic into them. Some of the other hams pointed the early arrivals out of the little volunteer lot and over to “Plan B.” Alanna K4AAC was the traffic cop at the check-in area. Her toughest task was convincing Girl Scout moms to park in a designated lot three blocks away when they wanted to park *here*.

So now we had two parking lots full of floats, high-school bands, military units, Girl Scouts, clowns and other groups, but they were not lined up in any particular order. Tom asked me to coordinate getting them out of the lots and up to the Wilmington Street starting line, and he gave me a list that showed what order they needed to be in. This was going to be interesting.

I got on the air and called for all available hams to just spread themselves out into the parking lots and adjacent streets. I would call for the parade units in order. The hams would look around, and whoever identified the units I called for would approach them and point them to the exit. KJ4BYN, KI4YXM, K4NGJ, WA2YBM, K4TIF, WD4KSE, KI4FUD and KI4PAE joined AE4PC, AI4RT and KM4SX in the staging area (John AI4RT described it as the cavalry arriving just in time as he was about to give up). The improvised system worked, though the hams had to unsnarl some traffic jams. Everyone was thinking on their feet and solving problems as they arose. It was working.

Almost. The first two units on my list were the Inter-Service Color Guard and the 2nd Division Marine Band from Camp Lejune, and nobody could find either of them. Tom had a brilliant thought – they were probably participating in the Inauguration, which was going on a few blocks away. Virginia confirmed that, and they were soon on their way to the starting line.

The parade began on time, at 12:30. Wilmington Street was full from the staging area to the starting line, and about half the parade units were still in the parking lots. I was about to call out more units when our next two crises hit. First, Governor Perdue hadn’t arrived at the reviewing stand yet. Could we stop the parade, or at least slow it down? We didn’t see how. Fortunately, she appeared before the parade had progressed very far.

Second, there was a separate parade “insertion point” for the politicians and other VIP who would be riding in antique cars. Bob K4RLC was manning that spot, and he reported that the VIPs were arriving way out of order. There was no way to stick to the prepared script. Some of the other parade units were out-of-order, too, because they arrived late.

That scenario was covered. David KF4VXJ was positioned strategically near the start of the parade, and would relay the actual order of participants to Alanna K4AAC, who was now in the TV truck near the finish line. The problem was that with all the stray RF from the computers in the TV truck, Alanna couldn’t hear David, or almost anyone else. As the panic level from the producers was rising, Virginia was moved to the truck, and Alanna stood outside, where she could hear David and relay his reports to Virginia.

But now *my* anxiety level was rising. Half the parade was still in the parking lot, but the TV-support hams were dominating our radio channel getting their problem solved and reporting parade progress, and I couldn’t call for more units. Our truncated planning hadn’t left time to identify a second frequency and make sure everyone had it programmed and ready for QSY in the event of channel congestion. We were doing everything on a single two-meter simplex frequency. Steve K4WEB was doing his best to keep things moving as Net Control, but I had to plead to get *someone* moved to another channel before the parade developed a big gap in the middle.

David solved the problem by moving the TV crew to a nearby repeater. I was able to resume calling out the parade units, and the parade proceeded, gap-free.

Another part of Tom's plan called for having several hams stationed along the active parade route to look for any trouble. That job went to the Freeze family, father Mark WD4KSE, and twins Clara KI4PAE and Sam KI4FUD. Sam saw a horse throw a shoe, which landed nails-up in the middle of the street, right in front of a marching band (earlier in the day, a band leader had complained about being behind horses, but this wasn't what he had in mind). Sam ran out and picked up the shoe. Meanwhile, Mark received a radio call that some VIPs arrived at the "insertion point" late, and we needed to have one of the antique cars circle back to pick them up. He ran the length of the parade route to catch up with the cars and redirect them. Clara's first public-service outing went a little more smoothly, but she said she enjoyed it.

Another ham stationed on the route, Liz KF4UQZ, discovered that a radio and orange vest made you a target for everyone with a problem – public, parade official, police. She barely got one question answered or problem solved before another one appeared. "That is what these events are good for, to test your ability to do that under extreme duress. We can all use a lot more of that," she said.

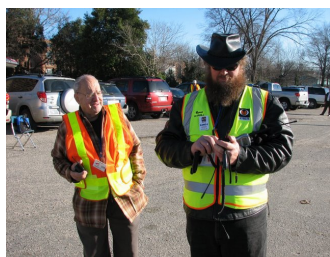
Remember that parking lot that Tom commandeered? Our action didn't go unnoticed (it's hard to

hide a couple thousand people, many of them blaring instruments and beating drums, in a lot that wasn't supposed to be used). A lot representative approached Phil AE4PC and asked when they'd get their lot back, as they had an event that evening. Phil explained that we'd be long gone by then, and all was well.

Our group of 20 included four women - Virginia, Alanna, Liz and Tiff. Virginia noted that that seemed appropriate, considering that the Inauguration was for the state's first female Governor. Then someone asked her why we didn't have *more* women hams there.

The parking lot emptied; the last officials were "inserted"; the TV broadcast identified almost everyone correctly; the Governor left a little early to join the crew of costumed sports mascots as they cavorted before the reviewing stand (with didn't please the some of the participants who didn't get her attention); and a police car brought up the rear of the parade. Bob, K4RLC, and David, KF4VXJ followed that car up the parade route, and Bob reported, "Some groups of parade watchers clapped loudly and laughingly said, 'Hooray for the guys with the radios.'"

The guys (and girls) with the radios were treated to a barbecue lunch before heading home. As far as anyone on Fayetteville Street or watching on TV knew, everything was flawless. They pulled it off.



WINTER FIELD DAY

BY RYAN AVERY

I would like to start off by thanking everyone very much for making this year's Winter Field Day the best field day event in North Carolina's history! We had over 70 people come out and brave the elements in order to join us outside in the middle of winter. The wide variety of local clubs represented was outstanding and really showed the community what ham radio is really all about. Brothers and Sisters, as BJ would say, teaching and learning from one another.

A special thanks goes out to Alex KC4PHJ, Barry KI4PMI, Chris KH2PM, Gino KI4YXO, Jeremy KJ4FYX, JP AB4PP, Paul AA4XX and Phil

AE4PC for taking the time out of their busy schedules and setting up stations for all to use. These guys started rolling in around 1pm Friday afternoon and stayed until break down was complete late Sunday afternoon. Chris Caudle KG4WFD took home the trophy for most contacts.

Thanks again for making WFD 2009 a huge overwhelming success!!!

73,

Ryan NC4RA



REPEATER NEWS EMAIL FROM DANNY HAMPTON

Hello Everyone,

The 147.195 upgrade is moving slowly due to many reasons.

Things that have been Accomplished:

1. The new antennas for the site have been procured and are in storage at my home. I was able to sell some items and purchase a second antenna so the repeater will have a omney transmit and receive pattern when the new installation is completed.

2. Recently, a tower inventory of all abandoned coaxial cables, antenna brackets, and antennas remaining on the tower was performed. Many 2-way clients have come and gone over the years and some of them left their antennas ETC behind. I have determined what antennas and coaxial cables and brackets can be removed and by doing so, this has allowed us to be able to locate the new antennas for the repeater at a higher level on the tower and further away from some other antennas.

3. Galvanized support mounting brackets for the new antennas are on order and scheduled to be here within the next 2 Weeks. Barry and Dale will be helping to assemble these brackets when they arrive.

4. All new coaxial cable, hangar kits, and connectors have been purchased and are in hand for the instillation.

There has been lots of work going on at the tower site over the last 2 months reference the DTV start up on February 17th. There was a multi-ton antenna removed from the top of the tower and this antenna was replaced by a new DTV antenna. This required a multi-man tower crew for several Weeks. Work in the next couple of months at the tower site includes 2 FM broadcast stations, 99.9 and 106.1 moving from other locations to this tower site. I highly suspect we won't be able to complete our antenna and repeater upgrade until these stations are moved and all that work is completed. The tower site hasn't experienced this much activity in a long long time and it's all happening at once. Since we are guests, I will maintain a low profile until this work gets done and then we'll finish our work.

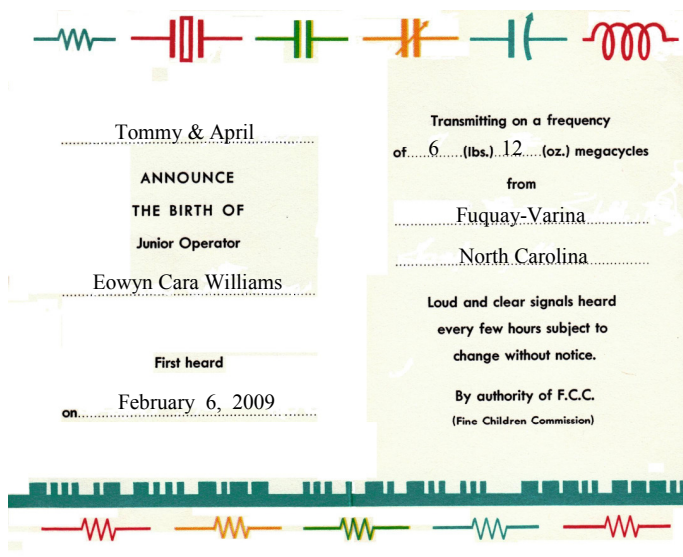
Cordially,

Danny Hampton

K4ITL

PCRN

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



UPCOMING HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS

February 7, 2009 Virginia State Convention (Richmond Frostfest)

Richmond, VA

<http://www.frostfest.com>

April 11, 2009 Raleigh Amateur Radio Society North Carolina State Convention

Raleigh, NC

<http://www.rars.org/hamfest>

February 22, 2009 Vienna Wireless Society Winterfest

Annandale, VA

<http://www.viennawireless.org>

March 14-15, 2009 Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society Roanoke Division Convention

Concord NC

<http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest>

SKYWARN INFORMATION NETS & UPCOMING EVENTS

As posted on <http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net/>

Every Tuesday at 9:15PM on the 146.88 repeater



CAROLINA HELPING HAMS

No events listed.

More details and sign-up information can be found on links from the Ham public service calendar at: www.hampublicservice.org



LINKS OF INTEREST



South Wake ARC Club website: <http://www.southwakearc.com/>

South Wake ARC Yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southwakearc/>



Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network: <http://pcrn.net/>

Carolina 440 linked system: <http://www.carolina440.net/>



Central Carolina Skywarn: <http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net/>

SouthEastern Repeater Association: <http://www.sera.org/>



Wake County CERT: <http://www.wakecountycert.org/>

Wake County ARES/RACES: <http://www.wakeares.org/>



ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/>

FCC Universal Licensing System: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>



Hamfest calendar: <http://k4hm.net/calendar.php>

NC Canine Emergency Response Team: <http://www.nccert.org/>



Capital Area Radio Testing Group: <http://www.cartgroup.org>

CLASSIFIEDS

None for this month.

If anyone would like to sell or trade any ham or computer related items, please contact me and I will post them here in the newsletter.

Jim — W4VCF

SOUTH WAKE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Address	Officers
PO Box 1565 Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526	President: Tim Ruffin W4TAR timruffin@earthlink.net Vice President: Tommy Williams KI4VSO ki4vso@gmail.com Secretary: Jennifer Avery KI4TFO jennavery@charter.net Treasurer: Donn Harris NC4DH nc4dh@embarqmail.com Membership Director: Dale Whitlock AI4WF ai4wf@nc.rr.com Director of Large: Steve Mowels KA0GMY ka0gmy@bellsouth.net Director at Large: Ryan Avery NC4RA rwavery@charter.net

Public Service Through Amateur Radio

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of our members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.

2008 / 2009 MEMBER ROSTER

Full Members:

AA4XX Paul Stroud
 AE4PC Phil Cunningham
 AI4OZ Don Sharer
 AI4UP Vessie Whitlock
 AI4WF Dale Whitlock
 AJ4KZ Mark Womack
 K4HM Hank Montgomery
 K4ITL Danny Hampton*
 K4JDR Ronnie Casey
 K4MSE Dave Yow
 K4VJC Velda Callam
 K9RII Jim Young
 KA0GMY Steve Mowels
 KA1CZI Stan Czynnik
 KB4BLU Jim Staley
 KC4OVF Debbie Turlington
 KD4OKR Mike Ramsey
 KD4UJC Mike Callam
 KE4RUN Hargrove Davis
 KF4RDN Glenn Crissman
 KF4USQ Anna Crissman
 KG4HPE Patricia Babb

KG4RMT Selene Montgomery
 KG4WFD Chris Caudle
 KH2TI Becky Wingfield
 KI4BRZ Randy Kemp
 KI4GNC Smokey Powell
 KI4HDZ Grady Johnson
 KI4PMI Barry Emery
 KI4SHY Peggy Sharer
 KI4TFO Jennifer Avery
 KI4TWW Haley Whitlock
 KI4TWY Roy Avery
 KI4VSO Tommy Williams
 KI4WAI Harley Britton
 KI4YII Arthur Strong
 KJ4CXY Dennis Parker
 KJ4DNE Dan Britton
 KJ4DNS Ron Rasberry
 KI4YXO Gino Fernandini
 KJ4AEO Christy Fernandini
 KJ4FYX Jeremy Barnard
 KJ4GIZ David Whitehurst
 KJ4HNA David Caudle
 KJ4IHX Carl Sinclair

KJ4IIA Fred Benson
 N4MRW Matt Wingfield
 NC4BJ "BJ" Jenkins
 NC4DH Donn Harris
 NC4MP Mark Perkins
 NC4RA Ryan Avery
 NC4XX Don Turlington
 W2RDU John Fiorentino
 W4FXE Ken Medlin
 W4TAR Tim Ruffin
 W4RJF Ronald Ford
 W4VCF Jim Williams
 WA2YBM Jack Donnelly
 WB4BAH Tim Kemp
 WW4TLB Thomas Babb

Associate Members:

Nancy Avery
 Gloria Mowels
 Philip Whitehurst
 Katie Whitlock

* Lifetime Member
 New member since last newsletter